GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:289
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Encroachment on Forest Land
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of encroachment on forest land in various parts of the country including Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
(b) the likely impact of such encroachment on the environment;
(c) whether the Forest Departments of certain States including Jharkhand have identified additional forest land in their respective States and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
(d) the measures taken by the Government to remove all the encroachment from forest land in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (d) The Statement is laid on the table of the house.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO PART (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *289 DUE FOR REPLY ON 06.12.2016 REGARDING ENCROACHMENT ON FOREST LAND ASKED BY SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

(a) As per the information provided by the State/UT Governments, the forest area under encroachment including Jharkhand is 14,839 Sq kms. The State/UT-wise details are given in Annexure-I. The sporadic cases of encroachment on forest land take place on account of various biotic pressures.

(b) Encroachment of forest land leads to conversion of forest areas into non-forest areas, thus impacts flow of various ecosystem services from these areas.

(c) & (d) Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. The various actions to remove encroachment are taken as per the provisions under various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, various rules made under these and State specific acts and rules.

Further to prevent fresh encroachments various measures are taken by State Forest Departments, such as survey and demarcation of forest areas, construction of boundary pillars, and check posts, use of modern technology (that includes wireless network, remote sensing, Geographical Information System, Information Technology, Global Positioning System), improved mobility to the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling. Local communities are also encouraged and involved in conservation, protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management Committees/ Village level committees.

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